

## From the Pastor's Office

### *6th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The thing about the Christian life is that it is not a book full of rules to be ignored. There is a very specific way of living the Christian life. I think the most important way is that I commit to being authentic. I resolve to live this life and every aspect of it. I don't just proclaim my faith. I live it out as well. As a priest, I stand there sometimes giving out communion and I am in relationship with lots of these people. I can't help it, but I sometimes judge them standing before me. This one is a liar, this one is a gambler, this one is cruel, this one can't be trusted. Is there a truth about the way we live that we don't want anyone to know? When the riots break out am I the one who smashes all the windows? No one saw me, so I am OK. Am I the one who gave into temptation and I stole the watch? No one saw me, so I am OK. But, on Sunday I am at the altar and I take communion. I have stood there and people told me stuff and I knew I was being lied to by a very devout Catholic person. We both know it was a lie, but I won't be seeing them in the confessional. That amazes me to be honest. Jesus says in the gospel today that He did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. Then He goes on to give us examples. Don't leave your business unfinished. Don't leave a mess behind for someone else to mop up. Don't be bowing and scraping before God when you are doing the exact opposite behind His back. We all do some version of it. I am amused that the first lesson any child learns is to tell lies. "Did you eat that cookie? No, I didn't," even though your mouth is covered in crumbs. We seem to have an inane natural ability to lie and deceive. We also like to rebel with every chance we get. That stays with us all our lives. We just get better at hiding it all. We are actors on the stage. Jesus challenges me. Stop playing the game. If you are going to live the Christian life, then do it. If you are not going to do it, then stop wasting my time.



With love,  
Fr. Pat